

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: DIET ELECTION RESULTS IN WESTERN JAPAN

REF: FUKUOKA 0228

1. DIET ELECTIONS IN KYUSHU AND YAMAGUCHI TURNED OUT LARGELY AS PREDICTED REFTEL: JAPAN COMMUNIST PARTY (JCP) DID LOSE ALL THREE OF ITS SEATS, BUT LDP DID NOT DO AS BADLY AS PREDICTED, LOSING ONLY TWO INSTEAD OF THREE SEATS. AMONG LOSER, DSP ALSO DROPPED ONE SEAT, AS PREDICTED.

2. VOTERS DID NOT SWING TO LEFT AS RESULT OF LOCKHEED SCANDALS AND LDP DISARRAY, INSTEAD GAINERS WERE CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENTS WHO WON FOUR SEATS AND KOMEITO WHICH WON TWO SEATS. SHIN JIYU CLUB ONLY KEPT ITS ONE INCUMBENT SEAT AS PREDICTED, WHILE BOTH LDP QTE GRAY DIETMEN UNQTE NIKAI DO AND FUKUNAGA IMPLICATED IN LOCKHEED SCANDAL RETAINED THEIR SEATS. ONLY NIKAI DO HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO WIN.

3. NET EFFECT OF ELECTION MAY ACTUALLY B TO STRENGTHEN LDP REPRESENTATION IN THIS DISTICT, SINCE ALL FOUR CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENTS ELECTED ARE EVENTUALLY EXPECTED TO SUPPORT LDP IN DIET. IF THIS PREDICTION COMES TRUE, AND SHIN JIYU CLUB ALSO EVENTUALLY AGREES WITH LDP IN MOST SUBSTANTIVE POLICY AREAS, IRONIC EFFECT OF ELECTION IN THIS CONSERVATIVE AREA MAY WORK OUT TO PROVIDE 47 CONSERVATIVE VOTES (COUNTING LDP, INDEPENDENTS AND SHIN JIYU TOGETHER) WHERE THERE WERE ONLY 45 PREVIOUSLY.

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RM EXPLANATION FOR JCP'S POOR PERFORMANCE IS BEING ATTRIBUTED TO COMBINATION OF LAST-MINUTE CHANGE ON SECURITY TREATY QUESTION WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE BEWILDERED SUPPORTERS, MIYAMOTO QTE LYNCHING UNQTE INCIDENT AND EVEN HEAVY-HANDED SOVIET HANDLING OF MIG INCIDENT.

5. INTERESTING FOOTNOTE FOR FUTURE, ESPECIALLY NEXT YEAR'S HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS' ELECTIONS IS DROP IN SUPPORT FOR LDP IN THIS AREA FROM 54.56 PER CENT IN 1972 TO 49.95 PERCENT THIS TIME. RATE F SUPPORT OF ALL OTHER PARTIES DID NOT CHANGE APPRECIABLY.
PABST

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